

Press release – for immediate release



Date: 10 February 2017

Bethnal Green drug den closed

Tenants living in a drug den in Bethnal Green have been given their marching orders after legal action was taken against them by Tower Hamlets Homes (THH). The property was shut down after a closure order was granted at Stratford Magistrates' Court on 9 February.

Neighbours on the Avebury estate were terrorised by months of anti-social behaviour, including the brazen consumption of Class A drugs in broad daylight.

By working in partnership with the police, Tower Hamlets Council and affected residents, THH was able to compile a dossier of evidence to get the drug den closed after an initial warning went unheeded. Police found drugs paraphernalia, used needles, broken glass and blood spattered furniture when they carried out a search of the property in August 2016 after obtaining a warrant to enter the property.

The help of local residents and their first-hand accounts of drug related ASB, noise and volatile behaviour was crucial in THH being able to take further action. One tenant said:

“We felt unsafe in our own home and intimidated by the stream of drug addicts coming and going from the flat – we ended up reaching a point of desperation with noise at all hours and people openly taking drugs and using the stairwell as a toilet. We got to the point where we'd just had enough.”

THH Chief Executive, Susmita Sen commented:

“Our residents told us that their lives were being made a misery. This behaviour poisons communities and we will work with partners to ensure that we do everything in our power to take action against people who commit such appalling anti-social behaviour. With 20,000 households on the waiting list, THH will seek to have this property re-possessed, so that a family in genuine need can benefit.”

Tower Hamlets Council's Deputy Mayor and Lead Member for Housing, Councillor Sirajul Islam added:

“This is a great example of the results we can achieve through partnership working. We're committed to making the borough a safer place and we'll continue to bring similar enforcement action with the help of our partners, the police and local residents. This case shows we will be tough when taking action and sends clear message to perpetrators that we will not tolerate anti-social behaviour.”

THH is committed to tackling ASB. Our residents can report anti-social behaviour, in confidence, by phoning 020 7364 5015.

ENDS

Notes to editor:

1. Tower Hamlets Homes (THH) is an arm's-length management organisation (ALMO) managing approximately 22,000 tenants and leasehold properties on behalf of Tower Hamlets council. www.thh.org.uk

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